

Dear Neighbors,

I'm J. P. Matzigkeit. I want to work for you as your new Atlanta City Councilmember.



Our current City Councilmember, Yolanda Adrean, announced her plan not to run for re-election last spring, and while campaigning in the months since then, **I have listened to your priorities**, meeting with you in homes and at public events, hosting an online survey on my website, taking your calls, reading your emails, knocking on your doors. You have made it clear: **we have a consensus in our community on what matters, a consensus on what needs to be done.**

Here are priorities on which we agree.

Public safety matters. *We agree* that we need the right number of officers, with the right tools, in the right places. Reaching our goal of **2,000 police officers** is essential, and we must find ways to **retain and motivate** the officers we recruit and train. Give them **the tools they need** to effectively do their job, including the latest in technology, building on our **closed-circuit cameras and license plate readers**. Re-examine the deployment of personnel in each Zone to ensure resources get to where they're needed most: **our Zone 2 must be staffed** to tackle the challenges that come with the daily influx of people to work and play in Buckhead. Treat public safety as the **critically important civic investment** that it is.

Unlock the gridlock. *We agree* that dealing with our chronic traffic hold-ups demands both long-term solutions and short-term relief. **Traffic is like water**: it takes the path of least resistance, and that mandates **clearing** our top ten **bottlenecked intersections**, resurfacing roads and filling pot holes, expanding sidewalks and bike paths, **using technology** to synchronize traffic lights, to identify open parking locations, to **clear blocked lanes** and intersections, and to manage the impact of construction and deliveries. We have **TSPLOST money** to get started on these initiatives in the City, and we need not wait for buy-in from the state and nearby jurisdictions. Taking the long view, though, our existing **public transit needs to grow** and to consolidate across county lines and

be complemented by **new HOV and bus rapid transit lanes**, and this must be high on our to-do list.

Welcome enterprise. *We agree* that current and continuing prosperity rests on Atlanta's **attractiveness to business**. The "Amazon Criteria" provide **a great checklist to guide us**. We must continue to invest in a world-class Hartsfield- Jackson **airport and in data infrastructure**, and we must foster partnerships with businesses and universities, vo-tech schools, tech start-up incubators and our high schools to ensure we have an **educated workforce with leading technical skills**. Atlanta must be an easy place to do business and we should start by revising the City's procurement and permitting processes to ensure frictionless and transparent business operations. Our **tax rates** must be competitive both regionally and nationally. We recognize, too, that **Atlanta attracts business because of our high quality of life**, our inclusiveness and openness, and our broad horizons that attract talent. Keeping Atlanta "delightfully livable" and "welcoming to all" is good for business.

Balance the books. *We agree* that financial health and stability **makes everything else possible**. Atlanta clawed its way back from the Great Recession's financial peril and our current Councilmember, Yolanda Adrean, certainly deserves a considerable share of the credit for that. **Our reserves** are in good shape and **our bond rating** is only one notch below AAA. Moving forward, we must regularly re-examine our spending and submit it to **rigorous cost-benefit analyses**: investment that yields broadly shared benefits and sets the stage for continued prosperity makes perfect sense; frivolous or special interest spending has no place when taxpayer funds are involved. We want city services, from trash collection to police protection to water: the unglamorous work of **tending to the fundamentals and focusing on the basics** pays off with citizens getting better value for the tax dollars they pay in.

Rebuild trust. *We agree*: we are **appalled** by the bribery scandals festering at City Hall. Anyone paid by the taxpayers, should put the taxpayers first. We deserve no less. We must immediately **strengthen the oversight the independent ethics board exercises**. Anyone disqualified

from bidding in another jurisdiction should not bid for city contracts here, and we should regularly examine available databases to **discover overlapping interests** linking our employees and bidders. Even in emergencies, **oversight** of major purchasing decisions is essential. Full – not token – **financial disclosures** should be a prerequisite to employment in our procurement offices. **Put everything online in real time**. It's how we must operate going forward.

We share these priorities. Achieving **steady and measurable progress** on the things we agree on and the things we all care about will be my task. Priorities matter. Results count.

My **professional and business background** provides me the skill set to get things done on these priorities of ours. I have 30 years of experience consulting and leading **financial and human resource functions**, currently as chief financial officer at a high-tech company, preceded by 14 years leading compensation and benefits departments at Cox Enterprises and 10 years in financial and human resource consulting. My **civic and public service background** has taught me the need to build consensus and to keep constituents “in the loop,” made clear during my 15 years **community service** as co-founder, President and Board member with the Chastain Park Conservancy. It's almost as if I've been training all these years for the job of City Councilmember. **I can do this job for you.**

Early voting starts on Monday, October 16. **I need your vote.** With your vote, I can get to work and **turn our consensus into action.**

Sincerely,

JP

J.P. Matzigkeit

P.S. I am always keen to hear from you. Accessibility and responsiveness are part of the job description of City Councilmember. **Let me show you how truly accessible and responsive I am.** You can send me a message through my campaign website JPforATL.com, email me at JP@JPforATL.com, or phone me directly at **678-506-0791**. Keep in touch!